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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General expresses grave concern over Israel's decision Israel to deport to southern Lebanon several hundred Palestinians from occupied territories.

+ Total of 46 Indonesian peace-keepers serving with United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia held by National Alliance of Democratic Kampuchea in Phum O Sala.

+ United Nations Secretary-General expected to meet in Geneva later this month with President of Croatia and President of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; the latter Republic protests recent report by Human Rights Rapporteur on situation in former Yugoslavia.

+ Committee on sanctions against former Yugoslavia discusses request by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for permission to import liquid fuel exclusively for humanitarian purposes.

+ Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal, at meeting today at Headquarters with Secretary-General, agree to continue efforts to solve East Timor question; two Foreign Ministers to meet again on 20 April in Rome.

+ Iraq protests United Nations report that it had not been cooperating with Special Commission investigation teams; says it had expected UNSCOM to recommend lifting of sanctions.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed grave concern about the decision by Israel to deport to southern Lebanon several hundred Palestinians from the occupied territories.

In a statement issued by his Spokesman today, Mr. Boutros-Ghali noted that the Security Council had repeatedly reaffirmed the applicability of the 1949 Geneva Convention to the territories occupied by Israel, and recalled that Security Council resolution 726 (1992) had specifically requested Israel

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For information media—not an official record

to refrain from such action. He called on the Israeli authorities to rescind the deportation orders and to permit the safe and immediate return of those expelled.

Disturbed by the recent escalation of violence in the occupied territories, which had resulted in Israeli and Palestinian casualties, the Secretary-General condemned the violence and urged all sides to avoid steps which might lead to a worsening of the situation and which could hamper the peace process aimed achieving a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

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A total of 46 Indonesian peace-keepers serving with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) are currently being held by the National Alliance of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) in Phum O Sala, a United Nations spokesman said today.

Only nine peace-keepers had been released of the first group of 21 UNTAC peace-keepers held by NADK since yesterday. A second group of 34 Indonesian peace-keepers were detained this morning when they went to Phum O Sala to investigate the detention of their colleagues.

The spokesman said the United Nations is negotiating intensively with the NADK in an effort to resolve the situation peacefully.

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The two Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, have arranged for the Secretary-General to meet with President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and President Dobrica Cosic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), when the Secretary-General travels to Geneva in late December.

The Co-Chairmen also intend to bring the parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina together in Geneva in early January. Expected to participate in those meetings will be President Alija Izebegovic, Bosnian-Croat leader Mate Boban and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. The talks will focus on a sustainable cessation of hostilities, the demilitarization of Sarajevo, the unblocking of cities and towns under siege and the free movement of humanitarian aid. Only after that round of meetings are conducted will the Co-Chairmen be able to assess the potential for a negotiated political settlement.

In a related development, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has protested the recent report by the Human Rights Commission Rapporteur on the situation in former Yugoslavia, saying it led to the conclusion "that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is responsible for acts of Serbs who are not citizens" of that country and who live outside its territory.

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The protest was lodged in a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 10 December, which stated that the report by Human Rights Rapporteur Tadeusz Mazowiecki contained "accusations and unfounded condemnations" which did not contribute to "upgrading the protection of human rights".

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia could not be called "the aggressor" in the conflict, the letter continued, since there were no Yugoslav troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The aggressor was Croatia, the letter said, which had troops in that territory. The "one-sided condemnation of the Serbs was not only unjust, but exacerbated the conflict". Pinning the blame on one of the parties to the conflict in that region could only undermine the general efforts to end the war.

Addressed to the Secretary-General, the letter was signed by the Minister for Human Rights and Minorites of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Momcilo Grubac.

In other news, Bulgaria has said that by the end of the year, the direct and indirect losses to its economy since the enforcement of the sanctions by the Security Council against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would exceed $1.2 billion.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 14 December, the Bulgarian Government said that against the background of the enormous difficulties accompanying the transition from a totalitarian political and economic system to democracy and a market economy, the aggravation of the economic situation posed a threat to the process of democratic change in the country. The letter also drew attention to the losses suffered due to the embargo against Iraq and Libya, which had cost Bulgaria $2 billion.
Documents S/24948, S/24963

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The Committee established to review the sanctions imposed by the Security Council against former Yugoslavia met today to discuss a request by the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) for permission to import a certain amount of liquid fuel exclusively for humanitarian purposes.

The Committee decided to suggest to Prime Minister Milan Panic that he ask relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations to prepare a plan that will verify and meet the humanitarian needs described by him, and which will ensure that any permitted goods are distributed and consumed only to satisfy those needs. The Committee will then be in a position to take a decision on the matter expeditiously.

The Committee's decision was made public in a statement by Committee Chairman José Ayala Lasso, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations.

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Following meetings at Headquarters today between the Secretary-General and the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal, it was agreed that efforts to solve the East Timor question would be continued. According to a statement issued this afternoon, further talks will be held at Headquarters between representatives of the two Governments, followed by a meeting with the Secretary-General and the two Foreign Ministers in Rome on 20 April 1993.

The Secretary-General met separately today with the two Foreign Ministers, as had been agreed at their preparatory talks in September, in the context of the search for "a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution" to the issue. They then held a joint meeting, and continued their discussions at a working luncheon.

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Iraq has taken issue with what it describes as inaccuracies and untruths in a report of a meeting between Johan Santesson, the Chief Inspector of an investigative team of the Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament (UNSCOM), and Lieutenant-General Amer Mohammed Rashid, the Director of Iraq's Military Industrial Corporation.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, Iraq's Permanent Representative to the United Nations says that General Amer had affirmed his country's desire to cooperate with the Special Commission on the implementation of the Council's disarmament resolution and that reports of the meeting had ignored this expression of goodwill "in a manner that is cause for astonishment".

General Amer, the Permanent Representative writes, had pointed out that the inspection teams had seen everything and verified everything relating to the resolution. All weapons and equipment prohibited by it had been destroyed, which could not have been done without the full assistance and cooperation of the Iraqi side.

The Iraqi side, he says, had been expecting the Special Commission to fulfil its own obligations by recommending to the Security Council that the economic embargo against Iraq be lifted. "Regrettably", the letter continues, "nothing of the kind had happened".

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